

Minutes
Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing
September 7, 2006

Members Present

Ms. Cynthia Mosteller, Acting Chair
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne (via conference call)
Dr. Layton McCurdy, ex officio

Members Absent

Mr. Neal Workman
Mr. Hood Temple
Mr. John T. Bowden

Staff Present

Dr. Buddy Atkins
Ms. JoAnn Biga
Mr. Arik Bjorn
Ms. Julie Carullo
Ms. Renea Eshleman
Dr. Paula Gregg
Ms. Lane Jeselnik
Dr. Lynn Kelley
Ms. Cynthia Mallios
Dr. Gail Morrison
Dr. Clint Mullins
Dr. Mike Raley

Guests Present

Dr. Rayburn Barton, USC-Beaufort
Mr. Charles Bierbauer, USC-Columbia
Dr. Christine Ebert, USC-Columbia
Dr. Paula Egelson, College of Charleston
Dr. David Ferris, USC-Upstate
Mr. Carl Fisher, Beta Tech
Dr. John Hakkila, College of Charleston
Dr. Sam Hastings, USC-Columbia
Dr. Doris Helms, Clemson
Mr. Barry Hill, Beta Tech
Dr. Andrew Hugine, S.C. State
Dr. Elise Jorgens, College of Charleston
Dr. Richard LeBoeuf, USC-Upstate
Dr. Sandra Lemoine, Lander
Dr. Leonard Lundquist, Lander
Ms. Beth McInnis, Clemson
Dr. Norine Noonan, College of Charleston
Dr. Suzanne Olmert, USC-Aiken
Dr. Kay Poston, South University
Dr. Sandra Powers, College of Charleston
Dr. Jeffrey M. Priest, USC-Aiken
Dr. JoAnn Rolle, S.C. State
Dr. Robert Schemel, South University

Dr. Rita Teal, S.C. State
Ms. Kerrie Tobias-Roth, Miller-Motte Technical College
Mr. James Weaver, Miller-Motte Technical College
Dr. Fran Welch, College of Charleston
Ms. Debbie Wiggins, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Dr. Susan C. Williams, USC-Beaufort
Dr. Dennis Wiseman, Coastal Carolina

Ms. Mosteller called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and stated that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act. Ms. Mosteller noted that both Col. Bowden and Mr. Temple had been present earlier but had to leave for appointments prior to the opening of the Committee meeting. She thanked Dr. McCurdy for attending as an ex officio member of the Committee in his capacity as Chairman of the Commission.

1. Consideration of Minutes of April 6, 2006

Dr. McCurdy **moved** that the minutes of April 6, 2006 be accepted as distributed and the motion was **seconded** by Dr. Horne. Dr. Horne then asked that a correction be made for Item 4, Improving Teaching Quality Competitive Grants Awards, FY 2005-2006, p.3, to indicate that Dr. Morrison discussed rewording the Guidelines for the award to build in prioritizations and to reward schools that choose high-risk projects. Dr. Horne also asked that the minutes be changed to indicate that Ms. Mosteller, not Dr. Horne, had inquired whether or not accurate grammar is being taught. Ms. Mosteller asked that the minutes be corrected to show that Dr. Johnson was not absent from the April 6, 2005 meeting. The motion was **approved unanimously**.

Item 3.a. was then discussed, owing to travel issues of attendees.

3. Consideration of Initial Licenses

3.a. A.O.S. , Criminal Justice, Beta Tech, Columbia, SC

Ms. Mosteller introduced the program and it was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (Horne) that the program be approved for licensure. Mr. Carl Fisher from Beta Tech's corporate headquarters in Virginia further recapitulated the purpose of the program and stated that most law enforcement departments now require at least an Associate degree in Criminal Justice. Dr. Horne inquired whether the program was designed for full- or part-time students. Mr. Fisher answered that it was primarily designed for full-time students. Dr. Horne asked if students at Beta Tech are eligible for Title IV and state financial aid. Mr. Fisher responded that students are eligible for Title IV aid and Ms. Eshleman added that they are not eligible for state aid. Dr. Horne asked if Mr. Fisher was aware of the significant number of Criminal Justice programs in the state and, given the competition already in existence, if Beta Tech had considered market saturation. She also asked if students would be willing to pay significantly more for Beta Tech's program. Mr. Hill, Director of Beta Tech's Columbia campus answered that the students who attend Beta Tech are nontraditional students and that the institution was confident it would have a sufficient amount of students. Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the request for licensure by Beta Tech to offer at its Columbia site a program leading to the A.O.S. degree in Criminal Justice to be implemented in January 2007.

2. Consideration of New Program Proposals

2.a. B.S., Soils and Sustainable Crop Systems, Clemson (new)

Ms. Mosteller introduced the program and it was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (McCurdy) to accept the staff's recommendation. Dr. Horne commented that many new programs exceed 120 hours and inquired whether students could complete this program within four years. Dr. Helms answered that students can complete the program in four years by taking 17-18 credit hours per semester. In response to Dr. Horne's next question about the average percentage of students who complete a degree in four years

at Clemson, Dr. Helms stated that on average, 50 percent complete (75 percent in six years) and that the average for students in the sciences is much higher. Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to the B.S. degree in Soils and Sustainable Crop Systems at Clemson to be implemented in Spring 2007.

2.b. B.A., Middle Level Education, USC-Aiken (new)

Ms. Mosteller introduced the program and it was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (McCurdy) to accept the staff's recommendation. In response to Dr. Horne's inquiry of how to interpret the numbers on p. 4 of the proposal, Dr. Priest answered that they represented the number of new hires last year, rather than "unfilled positions." Dr. Horne then asked if the new positions were a result of turnover or new growth, to which Dr. Priest replied that most were a result of turnover. Dr. Horne next inquired if USC-Aiken included anything in its curriculum to address turnover, and Dr. Priest responded that the curriculum includes discussions about burnout. He added that some of the position openings are the result of teachers retiring. Dr. Horne commented that USC-Aiken is very well prepared for this program. Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to the B.A. degree in Middle Level Education at USC-Aiken to be implemented in January 2007.

2.c. B.S. Astrophysics/B.A. Astronomy, College of Charleston (new)

Ms. Mosteller introduced the program. Dr. McCurdy inquired about the demand for the program. Dr. Hakkila stated that one-third of physics majors at the College of Charleston concentrate in astronomy and that there is currently no similar major offered in South Carolina and very few in the Southeast. Ms. Mosteller inquired if the B.A. degree program in Astronomy is a result of the demand for high school teachers. Dr. Hakkila stated that there is a demand for teachers qualified to teach Astronomy and physical science in area high schools. Dr. McCurdy asked what percentage of students in this major pursue graduate work in Physics; Dr. Hakkila stated that approximately fifty percent do so in Physics and the two new programs as proposed. To Dr. Morrison's inquiry about the college's ability to meet program productivity standards (since many of the future Physics majors will now be enrolled in the Astrophysics or Astronomy majors), Dr. Kelley responded that CHE staff had been assured in the evaluation process by College of Charleston that all of these programs will meet productivity standards for the state. Dean Noonan stated that there was potential growth in physics majors because of growth in technical fields and that U.S. Department of Labor data indicates an increase in the demand for astrophysicists and astronomers. Dean Noonan assured Dr. Morrison that none of the Physics-related programs will appear on the noncompliance list for program productivity by the date of their full implementation. Without further discussion, it was **moved** (McCurdy) and **seconded** (Horne) to accept the staff's recommendation. The Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to either the B.S. degree in Astrophysics or the B.A. degree in Astronomy at the College of Charleston to be implemented in Fall 2007.

2.d. B.S. Nursing, USC-Beaufort (new)

Ms. Mosteller introduced the program and it was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (McCurdy) to accept the staff's recommendation. Dr. Horne commended USC-Beaufort for its emphasis on recruiting African-American males into the program. To Dr. Horne's inquiry on the hiring of new faculty, Dr. Barton introduced Dr. Susan Williams, Ph.D. in Nursing, the consultant hired to develop the program. He stated that upon CHE's approval of the program USC-Beaufort will hire additional faculty for teaching in the program. He reported that USC-Beaufort has already received clearance from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for offering the program. Dr. Barton also stated that area hospitals (Hilton Head, Savannah, and Beaufort) are supportive of the program and that the program is contingent upon funding from these hospitals. Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to the B.S. degree in Nursing at USC-Beaufort, with the BSN-Completion track to be implemented in Fall 2007 and the BSN-Generic track to be implemented in Fall 2008.

2.e. B.S. Engineering Technology Management, USC-Upstate (new)

Ms. Mosteller introduced the program and it was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (Horne) to accept the staff's recommendation. Dr. Horne and Ms. Mosteller commended USC-Upstate on its collaboration with the technical colleges in developing this program. Dr. Horne inquired whether Clemson agrees that this program is needed and if there is a graduate school track for this major. Dr. Ferris and Dr. LeBoeuf from USC-Upstate were introduced. Dr. LeBoeuf commented that graduate programs in Engineering Technology and Engineering Technology Management are not common and that the program is intended to be a means by which students can obtain a B.S. degree in a "2 + 2" arrangement. Students would be prepared to enter an M.B.A. program if they so desired. Dr. Horne asked how this program was similar to or different from the B.S. in Management of Technology degree that was discontinued in 2000. Dr. LeBoeuf stressed that the former program had been a four-year generic program within the School of Business and that the current program is a "2 + 2" program oriented towards technology students. Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to the B.S. degree in Engineering Technology Management at USC-Upstate to be implemented immediately upon approval by the Commission.

2.f. B.S., Information Science, USC-Columbia (new)

Ms. Mosteller introduced the program and it was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (McCurdy) to accept the staff's recommendation. Dr. Horne inquired if the traditional M.S. in Library Information Science will be continued, or whether this program is meant to take its place. Dr. Bierbauer stated that the M.S. in Library Information Science will remain, adding that the proposed program is a new bachelor's level program designed to provide students with a major in the field, but with skills and knowledge bases to permit them either to pursue an M.S. in Library Information Science, a host of other master's programs, or direct access to the world of work. Dr. McCurdy stated that the program appears solidly conceived. Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to comment favorably** to the Commission the B.S. degree in Information Science at USC-Columbia to be implemented in August 2007.

2.g. Center for Partnership to Improve Education, College of Charleston (new)

Ms. Mosteller introduced the item and it was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (McCurdy) to accept the staff's recommendation. Dr. Welch described highlights of the Center's purpose and its collaboration with Burke High School. Ms. Mosteller stated that Burke is facing a crisis and that the College of Charleston's alignment with the school is good. Dr. Horne asked why the committee was approving the Center so late in the process. Dr. Welch stated that there were several reason for this: the Center had been renamed and its model had been refined. Dr. Morrison added that the College of Charleston had received special funding for the Center before it had been approved by CHE, that CHE staff had sent the proposal back to the College for refinement, and that the concept of the Center has evolved. She stated that the proposal would not need approval from CHE if it were not for the special funding it is receiving. Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the Center for Partnership to Improve Education at the College of Charleston.

2.h. Center for Montessori Education, Lander University (new)

Ms. Mosteller introduced the item and it was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (McCurdy) to accept the staff's recommendation. Dr. Horne stated that the program was "a jewel in the crown" of Lander and applauded the University for seeking private funding for the Center. Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the Center for Montessori Education at Lander University.

A discussion of Item 8 was then held because of the need to accommodate schedules.

8. Consideration to Revise Mission Statement for South Carolina State University

Ms. Mosteller introduced the item and it was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (McCurdy) to accept the staff's recommendation. Dr. Hugine addressed the Committee, stating that 1) S.C. State is an 1890 Land Grant institution, 2) as the only HBCU 1890 Land Grant institution in South Carolina, S.C.S.U. has no comparable peer institution in the state, and 3) research is central to the mission of 1890 Land Grant institutions. Dr. Hugine stated that in other states with only one public HBCU, those institutions are not restricted in their graduate program offerings. Dr. Kelley stated that Kentucky State University is the sole 1890 Land Grant institution in Kentucky and has no doctoral programs and very few master's-level programs. Dr. Hugine added that the administration of S.C.S.U. realized that the Commission could not approve S.C.S.U.'s revised mission statement under existing law (Act 359) but sent this request for mission change to the Commission for another reason. He explained that because of its uniqueness, S.C.S.U. should not be limited in its graduate program offerings to just one doctoral program, in the opinion of the institution. Thus, he said, he was requesting that the Commission join S.C.S.U. in initiating and supporting an effort to convince the General Assembly to change the existing legislation to allow S.C.S.U. to offer an array of graduate degree programs at master's and doctoral levels. Dr. McCurdy stated that a decision regarding the issue of a change in the mission statement of the institution was beyond the scope of the Committee and the Commission because of the statute.

Dr. Horne asked the Committee to discuss Item #8 in relationship to Items # 10 and #11 and the Committee agreed to her request. She stated that doctoral programming required many different strengths at an institution and added that an institution requesting permission as part of its mission to offer a full array of doctoral and master's-level program should demonstrate a track record of having met pre-college curriculum readiness for its students and support of strengthening pre-college curriculum requirements. Dr. Mosteller inquired of Dr. Hugine how he would define research and if he was asking to move S.C. State into a different sector. Dr. Hugine responded that the change in law would be recognition of the uniqueness of S.C. State and of its purpose for creation.

Discussion of Agenda items 10 and 11

Ms. Mosteller introduced the report on Compliance Rates for First-Time Entering Freshmen in 2005-2006. Dr. McCurdy inquired why out-of-state students do not meet high school course requirements at as high rates as in-state students. Dr. Morrison replied that South Carolina graduation requirements are more stringent in number at 24 units and the core requirements are higher than those in many other states. Dr. Kelley stated that the CHE staff analyzed the data from the report to determine the issues leading to noncompliance and proposed that plans of action to increase compliance be developed by the schools not meeting compliance rates. Ms. Mosteller inquired if anything needed to be added in the way of standards for the plans of action. Dr. Horne inquired how much creativity is allowed in the plans.

Dr. Hugine stated that it is important to analyze compliance data in relationship to issues such as opportunity and students' background. He distributed a copy of an article from the The Item and noted the Washington Monthly rankings showing S.C.S.U.'s ranking for educating students. Dr. Morrison stated that schools have been working on reaching compliance since the increase in the science requirement two to three years ago. Dr. Hugine said that S.C.S.U. is not opposed to a fourth year of mathematics in high schools but objects to the prescriptive nature of the proposed list of the math courses for that fourth course. He stated S.C.S.U. would support the strengthened [REDACTED].

8. Consideration to Revise Mission Statement for South Carolina State University

Following the discussion of Items #10 and #11, Dr. Horne moved to table Item 8 for clarification so that S.C.S.U. might have time to research the issue of changing the current law and approach the issue in the appropriate arena. Dr. Horne's motion failed to receive a second. Ms. Mosteller then asked to for a motion to support the staff's recommendation for a mission change. Dr. McCurdy **moved** that the staff recommendation to deny S.C.S.U.'s request for mission change be adopted. The motion was **seconded** (Horne) and the Committee **unanimously approved** the staff's recommendation. Dr. McCurdy then

moved that S.C.S.U. further investigate the legal and historical background for the possibility of S.C.S.U. becoming a different sector in public higher education. The motion was **seconded** (Mosteller) and the Committee then **unanimously approved** Dr. McCurdy's motion. In discussion that followed, Dr. McCurdy stated that after S.C.S.U. concluded this legal and historical research, the institution should write the Executive Director and Chairman a letter asking that the Commission review this work and consider endorsing it.

10. Report on Compliance Rates for First-Time Entering Freshmen Meeting All High School Course Prerequisites, FY 2005-2006

Ms. Mosteller then read the staff recommendation on the report for Item #10. Dr. Morrison reiterated that institutions not in compliance were asked to submit plans for improvement to the staff of the Commission. Dr. Horne stated that standards should be created for the plans to be submitted. Without further discussion, it was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (McCurdy). Dr. Morrison and Dr. Kelley commented that the staff were prepared to review the plans and approve them whenever there was sufficient support in the narrative for institutional activities that lent themselves to observable outcomes likely to bring institution into compliance. The Committee then **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the Report on Compliance Rates for First-Time Entering Freshmen Meeting All High School Course Prerequisites, FY 2005-2006.

11. Consideration of Revisions to College Course Prerequisites

Ms. Mosteller continued discussion of this item. Dr. Hugine then suggested that the language under the category "Four Units of Mathematics" in the draft requirements be changed from "*must* (emphasis added) be selected from among..." to "*should* (emphasis added) be selected from among..." He reiterated that S.C.S.U. would support the proposed revisions if this change were made. Similarly, for clarity for students and high school counselors, Ms. Mosteller suggested changing the language in the last sentence of the same section to "recommended" that the fourth year math be taken during the senior year. It was then **moved** (Horne) and **seconded** (McCurdy) and the Committee voted unanimously to substitute the proposed wording changes by Dr. Hugine and Ms. Mosteller and to approve the proposed revisions to be implemented for students who will enter college as First-Time Freshmen beginning Fall 2001.

3. Consideration of Initial Licenses

3.b. A.S., Professional Aeronautics and Technical Management; B.S., Aviation Maintenance Management, Professional Aeronautics, and Technical Management; Master of Aeronautical Science; and M.S., Management, Project Management, and Technical Management, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Greenville, SC

Ms. Mosteller introduced the program. Ms. Wiggins elaborated on the program and stated that it will be located at the University Center in Greenville. It was **moved** (McCurdy) and **seconded** (Horne) and the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the licensure request by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University to offer the A.S., Professional Aeronautics and Technical Management; B.S., Aviation Maintenance Management, Professional Aeronautics, and Technical Management; Master of Aeronautical Science; and M.S., Management, Project Management, and Technical Management for implementation in January 2007.

Ms. Eshleman stated for information purposes that one public institution objected to the request by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Ms. Mosteller stated that neither the Committee nor the Commission could do anything about that institutional objection since it was based upon concerns of unnecessary duplication. She commented that the law does not use unnecessary duplication of programs as a criterion for refusing licensure.

4. Consideration of Amendments to Existing Licenses

4.a. M.B.A. and M.S., Criminal Justice, South University, Columbia, SC

Ms. Mosteller introduced the program. She **moved** (Mosteller) and it was seconded **seconded** (Horne) that the programs be approved for licensure. Dr. Horne inquired if the programs would always be offered on-ground only. Dr. Schemel stated that the program will begin on ground but may eventually evolve into a hybrid model. Dr. Horne inquired how South is able to affirm that students have the technical ability to take courses on-line. Dr. Schemel replied that the staff discusses technological requirements with students, who are also allowed to use the university's computer equipment. Dr. Horne inquired about the time commitment required of faculty teaching on-line courses. Dr. Schemel responded that faculty teaching on-line courses must be available seven days per week and must respond to student questions within 24-48 hours. The Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the request for an amendment to the license of South University to offer the M.B.A. to be implemented in January 2007 and the M.S. in Criminal Justice to be implemented in October 2007 at the Columbia location.

4.b. A.A.S., Health Information Technology and Respiratory Therapy, Miller-Motte Technical College, Charleston, SC

Ms. Mosteller introduced the program. She **moved** (Mosteller) and it was **seconded** (Horne) that the programs be approved for licensure. Dr. Horne inquired about the Wonderlic Assessment. Mr. Weaver stated that it is used to test skills in Math, Reading, and Writing. Dr. Horne inquired why MMTC has not sought accreditation from SACS. Mr. Weaver stated that the College is accredited by ACICS (Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools). Ms. Eshleman added that ACICS standards mirror SACS requirements, particularly for faculty. Dr. Horne asked if MMTC was not interested in pursuing SACS accreditation. Mr. Weaver replied that MMTC's corporate officers would be able to answer that particular question. Ms. Eshleman added that school governance was also an issue with SACS accreditation. Dr. Horne inquired about the cost of the programs. Mr. Weaver confirmed the cost. Ms. Eshleman stated that this question was asked of another licensed institution and informed the Committee that students chose these institutions because of access, class size, and personal attention and support. Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the request for an amendment to the license of Miller-Motte Technical College to offer, at its Charleston location, the A.A.S. in Health Information Technology to be implemented in January 2007 and the A.A.S. in Respiratory Therapy to be implemented in July 2007.

5. Consideration of Centers of Excellence (Teacher Education) Budget Allocations, FY 2006-2007, and Appropriations Request, FY 2007-2008

The item was **moved** (Horne) and **seconded** (Mosteller). Without any discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the Centers of Excellence (Teacher Education) Budget Allocations, FY 2006-2007, and Appropriations Request, FY 2007-2008.

6. Consideration of New Guidelines for Centers of Excellence (Teacher Education) Competitive Grants Program, FY 2007-2008

The item was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (Horne). Ms. Mosteller inquired what percentage of public schools in South Carolina are low performing. Dr. Gregg explained that low performing schools are defined as having received a grade of Average or below on the 2005 report card and have 90% or higher of students below poverty level. She added that the list of these schools could be found at the end of the report. Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the New *Guidelines* for Centers of Excellence (Teacher Education) Competitive Grants Program, FY 2007-2008.

7. Consideration of New *Guidelines* for Improving Teacher Quality Competitive Grants Program, FY 2007-2008

The item was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (Horne). Ms. Mosteller inquired about the burden of completing the application. Dr. Gregg stated that the application is primarily set by federal guidelines. She added that a statement was included in the revised Guidelines to add focus to districts that had not been served by the grant previously and that every district listed in Appendix 4 met the federal guidelines to qualify for the grant. She stated that an ITQ Technical Assistance training session is scheduled for Friday, September 15, 2006 and that over 30 people are registered for the training. Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the New *Guidelines* for Improving Teacher Quality Competitive Grants Program, FY 2007-2008.

9. Consideration of Annual Report of English Fluency Act, FY 2005-2006

Dr. Kelley stated that no changes have been made to the Act this year. Ms. Mosteller **moved** (Mosteller) that the staff's recommendation be accepted for forwarding the request to the Commission and it was **seconded** (Horne). Dr. Horne commented that this legislation appears to be unnecessary given six student complaints in its entire time as law. The Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the Annual Report of English Fluency Act, FY 2005-2006.

12. Other

Hearing no further business, Ms. Mosteller **moved** to adjourn. It was **seconded** (Horne) and the meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.